Unidentified Mother and Child in Mariupol

Al Salehi

Pelvis crushed, hip detached; they tell her that her baby may die. She cries out, “Kill me now!” 30 minutes of resuscitation later, delivered by cesarean, both of them: dead (asleep).

Call it.
Time of death: zero-days.
The war, in its infancy: 19-days.

Moments later, a slivered lining as doctors proclaim a brightside: “At least they didn’t end up in a mass grave.”

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1 In March of 2022, A wounded pregnant woman who was taken on a stretcher from a maternity hospital in Mariaouil, Ukraine, that was bombed by Russia, died along with her baby.